GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1507
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2002
TELECOM POLICY
RAGHUNATH JHA

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the Telecom Policy, 1994, it was aimed to provide telephone on demand and to provide at least one village Public Telephone in all the villages in the country by the year 1997;

(b) whether the target date was postponed to the year 2000 and again to the year2002;

(c) if so, the reasons for the same;

(d) whether the Government had to announced a new Telecom Policy in the year 1999 in view of the above;

(e) if so, the reasons for not being able to implement the Telecom Policy; and

(f) the steps taken to ensure proper implementation of the Policy?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TARUN SIKDAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The target to make available telephone on demand and to achieve telecom coverage of all villages in the country by the year 2002 was set in the `New Telecom Policy`1999`.

(c) For covering the Village Public Telephone the appropriate technology was not available. The Multi Access Rural Radio (MARR) technology used for this work was found to be inappropriate. Based on evaluation, new technologies like Wireless in Local Loop (WLL), Centre for Development of Telematics Time Division Multiple Access/Point To Multipoint (C-Dot TDMA/PMP) and satellite terminals for inaccessible areas have now been selected apart from the conventional Under Ground Cables and the work is in progress. The contribution from Private Sector participation as per NTP`94 was also minimal due to fixed licence fee regime which was found to be unworkable by the Private Sector. This was changed to revenue sharing in NTP`99 and now the roll out of service by Private Operator has picked up.

(d) Yes, Sir

(e) & (f): The target set in the NTP`99 are likely to be met.The work of providing Village Public Telephones is in progress. 429515 Villages have been provided with telephone facility as on 31st January 2002 out of 607491 villages in the country. 58,722 Villages are to be covered by Private Basic Operator. Remaining villages are to be covered by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), by the end of year 2002.